

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT**

I. Heading

Date: December 21, 1994
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Subject: ~~Pyridium Mercury Disposal Site No. 2~~
Village of Harriman, Orange County, NY
POLREP: One

II. Background

SITE NO.: ☒ EV
Delivery Order: N/A
Response Authority: CERCLA
CERCLIS NO.: N/A
NPL Status: Not on NPL
State Notification: NYSDOH Notified
Action Memorandum Status: Under Preparation
Start Date: N/A
Demobilization Date: N/A
Completion Date: N/A

III. Site Information

A. Incident Category

CERCLA Incident Category: Other- Industrial Landfill

B. Site Description

1. Site location

The Pyridium Mercury Disposal Site No. 2 is a residential property located at 40 South Main Street, Village of Harriman, Orange County, New York.

EPA was notified by the Village of Harriman and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) that material similar to that found at the Pyridium Mercury Disposal Site No. 1 (Pyridium 1) was present at this site. Waste samples collected by EPA and the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) on October 26, 1994 were found to contain mercury at concentrations up to 477 mg/kg.

Mercury contamination at the site is suspected to be the result of the use of mercury-contaminated industrial waste as fill material.

2. Description of threat

Contaminants located at the surface may pose a threat to the health of residents of the house located on site. The results of analysis of soil and waste samples collected by the EPA and TAT on October 26 and 29, 1994, have been forwarded to the NYSDOH and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). A Health Consultation is forthcoming.

C. Preliminary Assessment Results

On October 26, 1994, EPA and TAT collected three surface soil samples and two waste samples to confirm the presence of mercury at the site. Mercury was detected in the waste at concentrations ranging from 227 to 477 mg/kg. Mercury was detected in surface soils at concentrations ranging from 0.14 to 27.5 mg/kg.

On October 29, 1994, TAT returned to the site to collect additional samples in a fenced portion of the yard used primarily as a play area for the children that live on site. Nine surface soil samples were collected within the play area; mercury concentration detected ranged from 0.06 to 117 mg/kg.

On November 17, 1994, the EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) and the Response Engineering and Analytical Contractor (REAC) collected dust samples in the house located on site. The analytical results of these samples have not yet been evaluated for compliance with quality assurance/quality control guidelines.

On December 7, 1994, ERT, REAC and TAT advanced 11 soil borings in the waste disposal area to a minimum depth of four feet below the existing grade. Soil samples were collected and screened for mercury using an X-Ray Fluorescence Analyzer (XRF) to determine the vertical extent of contamination. Soil samples collected at the lower limit of contamination, as determined using the XRF, were delivered to a laboratory for confirmatory analysis. The results of this analysis are forthcoming. Based on XRF data, it is estimated that 500 cubic yards of waste and contaminated soil are present on site.

IV. Response Information

A. Situation

1. Current situation

On October 12, 1994, a public meeting was held in the Village of Harriman to address concerns of the community regarding the Pyridium 1 site. At this meeting, a protocol was set up for investigating reports of the presence of mercury-contaminated fill at other locations within the community. The Pyridium Mercury Disposal Site No. 2 (Pyridium 2) was discovered as a result of this meeting and subsequent investigations.

The on-site residents have been informed of the results of the soil sampling conducted October 26 and 29, 1994, and have been advised to limit use of contaminated areas.

On November 28, 1994, a public availability session was held in the Village of Harriman. At this session representatives of NYSDOH, ATSDR, and EPA were available to answer questions about the Pyridium Mercury Sites. Data from soil sampling conducted October 26 and 29, 1994, were made available to the public at this meeting.

2. Removal actions to date

The EPA On-Scene Coordinator is currently writing an Action Memorandum for authorization to begin removal activities.

3. Enforcement

Waste found at the site is physically and chemically similar to waste found at the Pyridium 1 site. Waste from the Pyridium 1 site reportedly was generated by the Pyridium Corporation in the 1940s. Nepera Inc. occupies and operates the facility previously operated by Pyridium Corporation.

B. Planned Removal Actions

The scope of work for the proposed removal action includes temporary relocation of the resident population; decontamination of the residence; removal and off-site disposal of the waste and associated contaminated soil; and restoration of the site.

C. Next Steps

Removal activities will be initiated upon approval of the Action Memorandum.

D. Key Issues

None.

V. Cost Information

The Action Memorandum has not been completed, the project ceiling has not been set, and no costs have been incurred that are applicable to the project ceiling.

VI. Disposition of Wastes

N/A